

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-72 are pending.

Certain claims have been amended to more clearly recite an aspect of the present invention and to correct minor grammatical informalities.

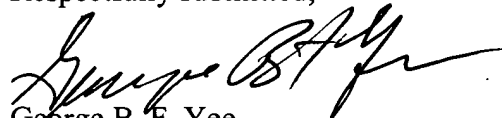
The claims are grouped into the following claim sets:

- independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 - 13, 41;
- independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15 - 16, 42;
- independent claim 17 and dependent claims 18 - 20, 43;
- independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22 - 24, 44;
- independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26 - 35, 37 - 40, 45;
- independent claim 36 and dependent claim 46;
- independent claim 47 and dependent claims 48 - 51;
- independent claim 52 and dependent claims 53 - 56; and
- independent claim 57 and dependent claims 58 - 72.

CONCLUSION

All claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY
60414450 v1